

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10, 11, 14, 17, and 19- 21 are amended. Claims 12 and 13 are canceled, and new claim 22 is added.

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

In claim 19, line 3, the element “said new associated anonymous identifier” lacks proper antecedent basis. Claim 19 is amended to depend from claim 18 instead of claim 17. Claim 18 recites the element “a new associated anonymous identifier” that is being referred to by the element “said new associated anonymous identifier” in claim 19. The Applicant believes that amended claim 19 is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

In claim 20, line 1, the element “said patient files” lacks the proper antecedent basis. Claim 19 is amended to recite, “said patient file” as proper antecedent basis for the element “a patient file” recited in claim 17. The Applicant believes that amended claim 20 is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-3 and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,397,224 to Zubeldia et al. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 17 is amended to include creating a patient file from a patient file development network, transferring the patient file from the patient file development network to a primary care network, transferring the patient file from the primary care network to an anonymizing network, and storing the anonymous file in an anonymous file storage element. The Zubeldia et al. reference clearly does not teach or suggest the above elements added to amended claim 17.

Claims 18-21 are dependent claims, dependent upon independent claim 17, and thus should be allowable for the above reasons as well as for the additional elements they contain. Claims 19-21 are amended to correct the antecedent basis of certain elements in the claims.

Claim 1 is amended to include an anonymous file storage element for storing the one or more anonymous files. Again, the Zubeldia et al. reference clearly does not teach or suggest an anonymous file storage element for storing the one or more anonymous files.

Claims 2 and 3 are dependent claims, dependent upon independent claim 1, and thus should be allowable for the above reasons as well as for the additional elements they contain. Claim 3 is amended to include the patient file development network being in communication

with at least one communications input and the patient file development network sending the one or more patient files to the anonymous file generator.

The Applicant believes that claims 1-3 and 17-21 contain patentable subject matter and are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and allowance of claims 1-3 and 17-21 are respectfully requested.

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 4-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zubeldia et al., as applied to claims 1 and 3 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0128860 to Leveque et al. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 4-9 are dependent claims, dependent upon independent claim 1, and thus should be allowable for the above reasons as well as for the additional elements they contain. In addition, neither the Zubeldia et al. nor the Leveque et al. references, or the combination thereof, teach or suggest a patient file development network comprising at least one image acquisition workstation, at least one primary care network including an archive system, at least one remote workstation storing an anonymous file generator, a research and development network in communication with and receiving one or more anonymous files from an anonymous file storage element, the research and development network comprising at least one research and development workstation, or the patient file development network in communication with and sending files to the at least one primary care network.

Claim 10 is amended to include an anonymization network including a first communications input for receiving one or more patient files from the patient file development network and a second communications input for receiving one or more patient files from said primary care network, and the one or more anonymous files being stored in an anonymous file storage element. Neither the Zubeldia et al. nor the Leveque et al. references, or the combination thereof, teach or suggest a first communications input for receiving one or more patient files from the patient file development network and a second communications input for receiving one or more patient files from said primary care network, and the one or more anonymous files being stored in an anonymous file storage element.

Claim 11 is a dependent claim, dependent upon independent claim 10, and thus should be allowable for the above reasons as well as for the additional elements it contains. Claim 10 is amended to correct certain informalities in the claim. Claims 12 and 13 are canceled.

Claims 14-16 are dependent claims, dependent upon independent claim 10, and thus should be allowable for the above reasons as well as for the additional elements they contain. Claim 14 is amended to correct certain minor informalities in the claim.

Accordingly, claims 4-16 are believed to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and allowance of claims are respectfully requested.

**New Claim**

New claim 22 is added to include additional elements not recited in the original set of claims. The Applicant believes that new claim 22 contains patentable subject matter and is in condition for allowance.

**Conclusion**

In view of the amendments and remarks/arguments presented above, the Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned in the event a telephone conference would be helpful in advancing prosecution of the application towards allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required in this application, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 070845. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, the Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extension fees to Deposit Account No. 070845.

Respectfully submitted,

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